



Education Watch

Enhancing Flexibility & Accountability ■ Leaving No Child Behind

U.S. House Education & the Workforce Committee ■ John Boehner, Chairman
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H.R. 1 Advances House Republican Education Priorities

The House Education & the Workforce Committee will begin its markup tomorrow of H.R. 1, the *No Child Left Behind Act*, a plan that advances House Republican education priorities on a variety of fronts. Specifically, the bill:

- grants **unprecedented new flexibility** to local school districts in the use of federal education dollars, allowing them to transfer federal funds among ESEA programs without first needing permission from either the education secretary or the state;
- bolsters public schools by offering them additional financial help, but includes President Bush's **safety valve initiative** for students in failing schools by providing public school choice, private school choice, and federal funding for supplementary educational services such as tutoring and summer school programs;
- includes President Bush's rigorous **accountability plan** by asking states and local schools to demonstrate results through annual reading and math assessments for students in grades 3-8. The bill authorizes \$400 million to help states design the tests;
- provides a **breakthrough in program consolidation**, cutting the number of ESEA programs nearly in half, from 61 to 33;
- **empowers parents** through state and local school report cards;
- **prohibits national testing**, federally controlled curriculum, as well as any mandatory national teacher test or certification.

Message of the Day

No Child Left Behind gives students a chance, parents a choice, and schools a charge to be the best in the world.

- ❑ *Giving states and local schools more flexibility will improve student performance.*
- ❑ *But real accountability means real consequences for chronic failure.*
- ❑ *The achievement gap cannot stand. We have a moral obligation to bring real change to 35 years of failed education policies -- and to pass this bill for our children's future.*
- ❑ *The Republican plan empowers parents and offers hope to disadvantaged students.*

DAILY EDUCATION FACTS

- H.R. 1 focuses on effective, proven methods of reading instruction and triples federal literacy funding from the present \$300 million to \$900 million in 2002.
- The bill allows teachers to remove violent and persistently disruptive students from the classroom without fear of legal repercussions.
- The measure requires local educational agencies to obtain parental consent before placing children in an instructional program that is not taught primarily in English.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The reality is that the system doesn't protect the children. It doesn't work on behalf of children. It protects and works on behalf of the special interest groups that have held public education in their clutches for 30 years or better. The adults always know how to take care of the adults. Who will speak up on behalf of the children?" **Florida lieutenant governor Frank Brogan, World Magazine, May/June 2001**